

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7426

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4739

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CASC YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

1. CONOFF TALKED WITH TOTH'S SISTER BY PHONE ON 19 JULY ABOUT HER VISIT WITH HIM PREVIOUS DAY. SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD INFORMED HIM OF YUGOSLAV GOVT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN PARDONED AND THAT DETAILS OF HIS RELEASE BEING WORKED OUT. SHE ALSO TOLD HIM THAT EMBASSY HAD INFORMED HER THAT HE WOULD BE RELEASED AND THAT AMBASSADOR AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN HIS BEHALF. ACCORDING TO HER, TOTH'S REACTION WAS "SURPRISE" AS WELL AS RELIEF.

2. SHE SAID THAT TOTH HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BY PRISON OFFICIALS OF PARDON. SHE SAID IT WAS HER UNDERSTANDING THAT PRISON OFFICIALS WERE UNAWARE OF PARDON. PRISON OFFICIAL WHO SAT IN ON HER VISIT ASKED HER HOW SHE KNEW ABOUT PARDON AND WHEN SHE HAD LEARNED ABOUT IT. THAT IS VERY INTERESTING", HE COMMENTED.

3. ALTHOUGH CONOFF AND SHE DID NOT MENTION TOTH'S THREAT TO BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE, CONOFF UNDERSTOOD THAT SHE HAD TALKED TOTH OUT OF ANY SUCH ACTION AT LEAST UNTIL SHE NEXT PERMITTED TO SEE HIM ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST. SHE ALSO TOLD HIM THAT ONE OF HIS ATTORNEYS HAD SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF PARDON, HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL HE HAD SERVED A FULL YEAR IN JAIL. (ACCORDING TO EMBASSY FILES, HE WAS FORMALLY ARRESTED ON AUG 6, 1975 ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING ON AUG 1.)

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4. SISTER SAID TOTH APPEARED TO BE IN BETTER HEALTH AND BETTER
FRAME OF MIND THAN IN JUNE. HE IS GETTING ABOUT FOUR HOURS OF
EXERCISE DAILY AND SHE THINKS THIS HAS HELPED HIM MENTALLY AS WELL
AS PHYSICALLY. SHE SAID SHE WAS ENCOURAGED ENOUGH ABOUT HER
VISIT AND GOY CONFIRMATION OF PARDON, THAT SHE LEAVING THIS
WEEK FOR NEEDED VACATION. SILBERMAN

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